(b) The information in this regard is not readily available and is being collected.

(c) According to the policy guidelines, officers/staff are considered for foreign posting mainly in the order of their seniority and keeping in view their job experience and consistently good service record.

लेह-जम्मू के बीच विमान सेवा को बढ़ाना

2193. **श्री कुशोक नवांग चम्बा:** क्या नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि इस समय लेह-जम्मू-लेह के बीच सप्ताह में केवल तीन बार विमान सेवा चलाई जा रही है जिससे उस क्षेत्र में यात्रियों की जरुरतें पूरी नहीं हो पा रही हैं;

(ख) क्या सरकार इस क्षेत्र में विमान सेवा को बढ़ाने का विचार कर रही है, जैसा कि पहले भी अनुरोध किया गया है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री अनंत कुमार): (क) से (ग) इस समय एलायंस एयर लेह-जम्मू-लेह सेक्टर पर सप्ताह में दो सेवाओं का प्रचालन कर रही है। इंडियन एयरलाइन्स समय-समय पर यातायात मांग के अनुरूप, जम्मू और लेह के बीच अतिरिक्त सेवाएं प्रदान करती है। देश के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों की विमान परिवहन सेवा सम्बन्धी आवश्यकता को ध्यान में रखकर, विमान परिवहन सेवाओं के बेहतर विनियमन को प्राप्त करने की दृष्टि से सरकार ने मार्ग वितरण सम्बन्धी मार्गदर्शी सिद्धान्त निर्धारित किये हैं। सरकार द्वारा जारी किए गए मार्ग वितरण सम्बन्धी मार्गदर्शी सिद्धान्तों के अनुपालन के अध्यधीन यातायात मांग तथा वाणिज्यिक साध्यता के आधार पर जम्मू तथा लेह सहित विशिष्ट स्थानों के लिए विमान सेवाएं प्रदान करना एयरलाइनों पर निर्भर करता है।

Delay in shifting of Telephone in Janpath Exchange

2194. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that months after applications for shifting of telephone connections have been submitted in Janpath Exchange of MTNL, no action/ initiative has been taken by the concerned authority while the bills have been accumulating against customers' name;

(b) if so, the officers/staff responsible for this and the reasons for not taking any action in time; and

(c) what remedial steps would be taken by Government to avoid such delays from Janpath Exchanges of MTNL including disciplinary action against the concerned officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Opening of Telephone Exchange at Akhand Nagar in district Sultanpur (U.P.)

2195. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a telephone exchange at Akhand Nagar in District Sultanpur, U.P. is going to be started;

(b) if so, will it cover villages such as Ealerwa, Paudhan Rampur, Misirpur, Jalalpur Umari etc. in Akhand Nagar block;

(c) if not, what would be done to cover these villages if people apply for telephones; and

(d) the proposal of opening a exchange in one of these villages be considered if these are not covered by any of the surrounding exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir. The telephone exchange at Akhand Nagar has been planned for the year 1999-2000.

(b) No, Sir. The proposed exchange at Akhand Nagar will not cover these villages.

(c) and (d) Presently, there is no registered demand for telephones in these villages. A telephone exchange at a suitable location may be considered when sufficient demand for telephones is registered.

New Postal Policy

2196. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is formulating a new postal policy as announced in 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time-frame by which the policy would be announced and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) During 1992 and 1997 action was initiated to draft a National Postal Policy but the matter did not progress thereafter. Recently, a draft National Postal Policy with specific focus on upgradation and modernisation of postal services with enhanced application of modern technology, expansion postal network through traditional methods of opening post offices as well as through innovative methods like franchising at minimum cost, involvement of private/initiative in the areas of value added services, generation of additional resources, steadfast-compliance of the principle of universal service obligation, strengthening international cooperation in the field of postal services on bilateral basis and through the aegis of the Universal Postal Union and other regional postal bodies engaged in the task of postal developmental was prepared. This policy paper was discussed in a meeting of the Consultative Committee of Parliament for the Ministry of Communications held on 5.2.99 in which certain suggestions were made. In the light of the suggestions, the draft policy paper is being modified and will again be placed before the Consultative Committee.

Revision of Phone Tariff Structure

2197. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to revise the Phone Tariff Structure;

(b) if so, whether the views of Parliamentary Standing Committee are being kept in mind by the Telephone Regulatory Authority of India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The TRAI which has been mandated with fixation of telecom tariff has released telecom tariff order 1999 on 9.3.99. The said order has been held in abeyance till the entire issue is considered by Government.

(b) and (c) TRAI had occassion to discuss tariff proposals with the Standing Committee. The views of Standing Committee on Communications on telecom tariffs were also conveyed to TRAI.

Waiting list of Telephone Connections

2198. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who are in the waiting list for telephones in Metropolitan cities as on 31st December, 1998; and

(b) what measures are proposed to be taken by Government to clear the waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA: (a) The details of persons on waiting list,